

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 11-14 and amend claim 4 as follows:

Claims 1-3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding ~~the a~~ mutated penicillin expandase ~~of Claim 1, which mutated penicillin expandase is derived from~~ a wild-type expandase of a *Streptomyces* species, wherein the mutated penicillin expandase has a substitution at one or more amino acid residues selected from the group consisting of residues corresponding to methionine 73, glycine 79, valine 275, leucine 277, cysteine 281, and glycine 300 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 5 (original): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 4 and a regulatory sequence.

Claim 6 (original): Recombinant cells transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 4.

Claim 7 (original): The recombinant cells of Claim 6, which are penicillin G producing cells.

Claim 8 (original): The recombinant cells of Claim 6, which are *Penicillium chrysogenum* cells.

Claim 9 (original): A method for producing a mutated penicillin expandase comprising the steps of expressing the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 4 and recovering the mutated penicillin expandase.

Claim 10 (original): A method for producing a mutated penicillin expandase comprising the steps of culturing the recombinant cells of Claim 6 to express the mutated penicillin expandase, and recovering the mutated penicillin expandase from the cell culture.

Claims 11-14 (cancelled).